

BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Power to Know and Love God, Be Nourished By and Work With Him



(Scriptures paraphrased or abbreviated from the New International Version.)

Ephesians 3:17-19: I pray that you may have power ... to know the love of Christ.

Galatians 5:22-23: But the fruit of [walking with and being controlled by] the Spirit is love ...

Ephesians 5:18: Be filled with the Spirit (the Greek verb tense means “continually.”)

Matthew 3:11: The baptism in water is for repentance; Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Also Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, John 1:33) As he prepares for his crucifixion, Jesus teaches his disciples that when he returns to the Father the Holy Spirit will come take his place on earth as their Counselor and Teacher, to live with them and be in them, so they have the life of Jesus and the Father. (John 14:16-17; 16:7-15).

John 20:22: After his disciples had been baptized in water Jesus “breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” This is the disciples “born-again” experience, only possible after the resurrection of Jesus!

Acts 1:4-5: Jesus told them, Wait in Jerusalem “for the gift my Father promised...you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.” Acts 2:4: “All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit ...”

Acts 8:15-17: Peter and John pray for believers who had only received the baptism in water, that the Holy Spirit would come upon them.

Acts 9:17: Ananias prays for Saul, now Paul, that he may be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 10:45-48: Peter and the disciples are amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit has been bestowed on Gentiles who’ve never been baptized in water. They baptize the believers in water also, to make their conversion and obedience to Jesus complete.

Acts 11:15-16: Peter is sent to share the gospel with a Gentile believer and while speaking the Holy Spirit comes upon the believer and his household; seeing this, Peter then baptizes them in water also.

Acts 18:24-19:7: A Jew named Apollos is zealously preaching the gospel and making disciples. When Paul goes to investigate these disciples, he finds they have all only received “the baptism of John ... for repentance”. Paul prays for them to be baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus, and they are filled with the Holy Spirit.

The disciples demonstrated the difference vividly. Baptized in water, as devoted followers of Jesus, they still lacked the power to love Jesus enough to even watch with him through his suffering in Gethsemane. They love Jesus in the power of their own hearts. After the Holy Spirit outpouring, their lives and witness become incredibly powerful, their love effective!

Galatians 3:2: The baptism in the Holy Spirit is received by faith just as salvation is.

Romans 6:3-4: Baptism in water is a believer’s enactment of dying with Christ, being “baptized into his death.” Colossians 2:11-12 equate water baptism with the moment of spiritual circumcision. Jesus asks the believer to go the next step and receive God’s power to live this new life, which is likened to putting on a new garment. Jesus called this baptism “being clothed with power from on high.” (Luke 24:49)